[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

Rs. 15·06 lakhs up-to-date. As many as 300 firms have registered their names with the Committee. The large increase in the number of competitive quotations has ended to greater economy. The Committee are also attempting, whenever possible, to effect economy by substitution of suitable cheaper materials for costly makes of articles by directing local manufacture of many articles in the P. W. D. Work-shops, in the Central Prison Manufactory, etc., at a much cheaper rate. Another important economy exercised by the Committee is in limiting to a minimum the purchase of stores from Indian Stocks and ordering them as far as possible from abroad on a duty-free basis, thus saving the duty payable on the articles ranging from 20 to 50 per cent of the actual value.

17. *Administration of Justice.* The continuance of the existing temporary Second Judges' Courts and the Temporary Munsiffs' Courts during the whole of the next year, except the one at Pathanamthitta, has been provided for in the Budget. But provision for the continuance of the Conciliation Boards has been made only for 8 months.

A committee has been appointed to go into the whole question of indebtedness with special reference to agricultural and industrial debts and the proper mode of dealing with the same and to report to Government their conclusions *inter-alia* regarding the extent to which compulsion may be resorted to in scaling down and settling the existing debts and the legal procedure to achieve the end. When the suggestions of the Committee are embodied in a suitable Legislative Enactment, as they will be very soon, the constitution of the Conciliation Board may undergo a thorough change.

18. *Central Prison.* To enable convict labour to be used to the best advantage of the Government as well as the convicts themselves, funds have been included in the next year's budget for the purchase of power looms, and warping and weaving machines for the Central Prison. Provision has also been made for the continuance of the Leather Industry. The Jail Manufactory has already offered to supply the leather goods required for the use of the State Police and Military and it is hoped that in the near future the industry will not only be able to stand on its own legs, but will also be a profitable concern.

19. *Police.* While reviewing the Revised Estimates for the current year, I have drawn the attention of the House to the heavy expenditure which the Government, in the discharge of their fundamental duties, had to incur for the preservation of peace and order and the protection of the person and property of the law-abiding citizens of the land. Though the sombre clouds that darkened the atmosphere have vanished to a considerable extent, the horizon is not yet perfectly clear and Government consider that it would be only a cautious measure of prevention that there should be specific provision in the budget for the continuance of the special police and of the Armed Reserve for a few more months next year to deal with any emergent situation, should it

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly